Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for detecting a fraudulent event in a retail location, comprising:

establishing a rule defining said fraudulent event, said rule including at least one condition;

processing at least one image of said retail location to identify said condition; and

performing a defined action if said rule is satisfied.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of recording said at least one image if said rule is satisfied.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said fraudulent event is a person stealing an item.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said fraudulent event is a person attempting to return an item without a receipt.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said person attempting to return an item without a receipt has not previously been detected in said retail location.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein said person attempting to return an item without a receipt has been detected in an area of said retail location where said item is stocked.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein said person attempting to return an item without a receipt was not carrying said item when said person entered said retail location.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of performing a face recognition analysis on said image.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of performing a feature extraction analysis on said image.

10. A method for detecting a fraudulent event at a retail location, comprising:

obtaining at least one image of said retail location;

analyzing said image using video content analysis techniques to identify at least one predefined feature in said image associated with said fraudulent event; and

performing a defined action if said rule is satisfied.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said fraudulent event is a person stealing an item.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said fraudulent event is a person attempting to return an item without a receipt.

13. A system for detecting a fraudulent event in a retail location, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

establish a rule defining said fraudulent event, said rule including at least one condition;

process at least one image of said retail location to identify said condition; and

perform a defined action if said rule is satisfied.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said fraudulent event is a person stealing an item.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein said fraudulent event is a person attempting to return an item without a receipt.

16. A system for detecting a fraudulent event in a retail location, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

obtain at least one image of said retail location;

analyze said image using video content analysis techniques to identify at least one predefined feature in said image associated with said fraudulent event; and

perform a defined action if said rule is satisfied.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein said fraudulent event is a person stealing an item.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein said fraudulent event is a person attempting to return an item without a receipt.

19. An article of manufacture for detecting a fraudulent event in a retail location, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to establish a rule defining said fraudulent event, said rule including at least one condition;

a step to process at least one image of said retail location to identify said condition; and

a step to perform a defined action if said rule is satisfied.

20. An article of manufacture for detecting a fraudulent event in a retail location, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to obtain at least one image of said retail location;

a step to analyze said image using video content analysis techniques to identify at least one predefined feature in said image associated with said fraudulent event; and

a step to perform a defined action if said rule is satisfied.